

PATENT APPLICATION

CUSTOMER NO. 27460

10/085,781

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Amended) A method for assigning [an item] a single classification number to an item from a list of [item] classification numbers in one of the Harmonized Tariff Systems (HTS) and Export Control Commodity Number (ECCN) [a classification set], comprising:
 - creating a secondary classification set defining a new classification field;
 - mapping selected [item] classification numbers from the list of [item] classification numbers in one of said HTS and ECCN [classification set] onto said secondary classification set;
 - creating a decision tree for said selected [item] classification numbers in said secondary classification set; [and]
 - creating a questionnaire corresponding to said decision tree;
 - presenting a user the questionnaire and obtaining the user's response to said questionnaire regarding a user's item to be classified;
 - using the user's response to generate a single classification number from said secondary classification set for the user's item.
2. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said selected [item] classification numbers comprises a subset of said [item] classification numbers of one of HTS and ECCN.
3. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said mapping selected [item] classification numbers comprises providing a transfer function, said transfer function enabling deciding, for each [item] classification number in said classification set, whether it should be included in said secondary classification set.
4. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein each of said [item] classification numbers in said list of [item] classification numbers further includes an item description, and wherein said mapping selected [item] classification numbers further comprises, at

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least for some of the item numbers, changing said item description.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said questionnaire is constructed in the form of a computer user interface.

6. (Canceled) The method of claim 1, wherein said classification set comprises one of the Harmonized Tariff System (HTS), the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS), and a country specific HTS.

7. (Amended) The method of claim [6] 1, wherein said secondary classification set comprises a subset of said one of HTS, HTSUS, ECCN and country's specific HTS.

8. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein said user interface further comprises a display field for applicable regulations.

9. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein said user interface further includes a keyword field for keyword search of said decision tree.

10. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein said user interface comprises hypertext.

11. (Amended) A method for assigning a single tariff number from one of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule ("HTS") [of the United States ("HTSUS")] and Export Control Commodity Number (ECCN), to an item to be imported, comprising:
creating a secondary classification set;
mapping selected tariff numbers from one of the HTS and ECCN [HTSUS] onto said secondary classification set;

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creating a decision tree for said selected [item] tariff numbers; and
creating a questionnaire corresponding to said decision tree;
wherein a user's response to said questionnaire leads to only a single tariff number
from said secondary classification set.

12. (Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein said secondary classification set comprises a subset of one of said HTS and ECCN.

13. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein said questionnaire comprises questions requiring no knowledge of the HTS.

14. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein said secondary classification set comprises blocks of classification items, each block corresponding to a different item class.

15. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein said questionnaire is constructed in the form of a computer user interface comprising hypertext.

16. (Original) The method of claim 11, further comprising using a company's business information to construct a transfer function, and using said transfer function to perform said mapping selected tariff numbers.

17. (Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein said secondary classification set comprises blocks of classification items, each block corresponding to different item class, and wherein said transfer function maps selected items from one of said HTS and ECCN onto a selected one of said blocks of classification items.

18. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein said decision tree is constructed

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in the form of an organization chart.

19. (Amended) A computer program stored on a computer readable medium, comprising:

at least one classification block, said classification block having selected [HTS] tariff numbers mapped thereto from one of the Harmonized Tariff System (HTS) and Export Control Commodity Number (ECCN) [a country specific HTS];

a decision tree for said classification blocks;

a user interface enabling progression in said decision tree;

wherein when operated, said computer program causes a computer to perform the functions comprising:

enabling a user of said computer to assign [an HTS] a single tariff number to an import item by performing the functions comprising:

asking the user to respond to questions relating to the characteristics of the imported item in order to progress through the decision tree and to arrive at [an appropriate] a single tariff number.

20. (Amended) The computer program of said claim 19 [18], wherein said classification blocks are expandable.

21. (Amended) The computer program of claim 19, wherein the tariff numbers mapped onto said classification blocks comprise a subset of said [country specific] HTS and ECCN tariff numbers.